



**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE
AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING ON A PROPOSED
250 MW, NATURAL GAS-FIRED, COMBINED CYCLE PLANT**

**City Hall Public Meeting Room
Faribault, Minnesota**

**Wednesday, October 15, 2003
2:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) will conduct a public information meeting in the city hall public meeting room in Faribault on **October 15, 2003**, concerning a proposal by Faribault Energy Park, LLC (FEP) to construct and operate a natural gas-fired combined-cycle electric generating facility capable of producing 250 megawatts (MW). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project, answer questions, and scope the environmental impact statement (i.e., identify the potential significant issues and alternatives). The Project, as proposed, is to be located approximately 2.5 miles north of downtown Faribault, on the west side of Highway 76 and south of 170th Street West, in central Rice County, Minnesota.

Under the Power Plant Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Sections 116C.51-.697) a site permit from the EQB is required to build a large electric power generating plant (LEPGP). A LEPGP is a power plant and associated facilities capable of operating at a capacity of 50 megawatts or more. The EQB has adopted rules for the administration of power plant site permits (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400). The EQB rules establish the requirements for submitting and processing a permit application. The applicant must identify in the application the preferred site for the power plant and one alternative site. As part of the permitting process, the EQB prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the project and holds a contested case hearing. The EQB has up to one year from the time the application is accepted to complete the process and make a decision on the permit.

On September 8, 2003, FEP submitted to the EQB a site permit application regarding the proposed LEPGP. On September 18, 2003, the EQB Chair accepted the application as substantially complete and notified the applicant in writing of the decision. Copies of the application can be obtained from the EQB web site (www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnergyFacilities/index.html); persons can also request to be added to the EQB mailing list at this site.

The Chair designated EQB staff members Bill Storm as project manager and Larry Hartman as the public advisor in this matter. Inquiries about this project should be directed to the EQB project manager, Bill Storm (bill.storm@state.mn.us) or Larry Hartman (larry.hartman@state.mn.us) 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155, telephone 651.296.9535, facsimile 651.296.3698 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).